

# Bumblebee Buzz April 2026

*Preserving the Past, Enjoying the Present, Building the Future.*

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## A Note From The President:

Spring has arrived, bringing renewed energy and a fresh season for the Historical Society. Throughout the winter, HSTI stayed active with monthly luncheons with engaging lectures, including NC Maritime Museums, Women in the Whaling Industry, Fort Fisher, and our April Scholarship presentations. We are always especially proud of our student scholars.

The Historic Assembly Building now features beautiful new flooring and a charming Rose Garden for all to enjoy—we hope you will stop by soon. The Missiles and More Museum is open, with a new tower exhibit debuting May 7.

Looking ahead, our Membership Drive begins May 1—join us to support local history! Turtle Talks start (June 1) will feature expert speakers from the Topsail Turtle Project. *Bingo!* begins (June 4) promises fun and cash prizes, the Aquarium Programs start (June 24) offers hands-on learning for families, and on July 2 author Blair Robinson will share her latest books!

We thank you for your continued support of our mission.  
Enjoy a season of sunshine, renewal, and new beginnings!

Warmest regards,  
Kathy Hart

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**Our 2026-2027 Membership drive is almost here!  
Look for your application to join or renew  
in your mailbox after May 1st.**

**Click on the button below to become a member or Renew your  
membership today! (Via credit card or print and mail)**

[Become or renew your membership here!!](#)

We appreciate your support and participation.  
Every Membership and Donation helps us fulfill our Mission!

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## Luncheon and Lecture News

**14 May 2026 Join us for the last luncheon of this season!**

*Art and Architecture During the Revolutionary War*  
Jodi Artman

Our speaker, Jodi Artman was raised in Weston, Connecticut. She graduated from Southern Connecticut State University in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in American History and Theater, along with a minor in Political Science. With a strong desire to make a meaningful impact on younger generations, she pursued a career in education.

Sharing her passion for history, Jodi taught and developed curriculum at Livingwood Christian Academy in West Haven, Connecticut. She later moved to North Carolina, where

she taught Art History for Cape Fear Community College's Adult High School program and also tutored at Wilmington Early College High School.

Jodi has been married to her husband, Rob, for 30 years. Together, they have two daughters, Jocelyn and Ally, both graduates of Topsail High School.

## We will also have the dedication of the Gwendolyn Whitehurst Ward Sunroom at this luncheon!



*Washington Crossing the Delaware c.1851 Emanuel Leutze*



l-r: Shane Taylor, Anna Swan, Lily Rumley & Camren Grace Reaves

### Scholarship Winners Celebrated at April 9th Luncheon

Karen Gavigan, Education Committee Chairperson, was honored to recognize this year's four exceptional students. She stated, "Our scholarship recipients are chosen based on their academic performance, community involvement, and participation in extracurricular activities". Although we had applications from other area high schools, this year all of our scholarship recipients are graduating from Topsail High School

Camren Grace Reaves, presented her essay, *The Legend of the Washington Oak: How Ham and a Tree Shaped Hampstead's Identity*. Camren Grace is the daughter of daughter of Melissa & Chris Reaves.

Lily Rumley, is a scholarship recipient for her Linocut art prints and essay on Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). Lily is the daughter of Stew and Kim Rumley. Lily's prints will be on display inside the Missiles & More Museum for a limited time.

Anna Swan presented her essay, *Anchored to the Past: The Sloop Point Plantation*. Anna is the daughter of Marty and Sharon Swan.

Shane Taylor, son of Nancy Ghali and Jodie and Kimberly Taylor presented his essay,

## The Missiles & More Museum open 1 April thru 22 May

🚀 Wednesday Through Friday 10 AM to 2 PM. 🚀  
\*Closed May 25 Memorial Day

## Open 26 May thru 9 October

🚀 Monday Through Friday 10 AM to 2 PM. 🚀  
^Open 19 June for Juneteenth^  
\*Closed 7 September Labor day  
\*\*Close for the season 9 October\*\*

The Historical Society of Topsail Island invites you to explore pirate legends, sunken Spanish treasure, and the history of Operation Bumblebee. Learn about the WASPs and their impact on women's roles in aviation and discover the history of Greater Topsail Island. Join our outdoor fossil dig for treasure hunting and explore more inside the Historic Assembly Building!



### Mission Accomplished! Join us for the unveiling!

We are thrilled to announce that Dallas Smith of BSA Troop 235 has completed his Eagle Scout Service Project! This project, benefiting the Missiles & More Museum, involved building a replica of the observation towers built on Topsail Island in 1946 for Operation Bumblebee.

Come celebrate this achievement and see the positive impact on our community!

📅 **Date:** 7 May 2026

🕒 **Time:** 5:00pm-7:00pm

📍 **Location:** Missiles & More Museum and the Historic Assembly Building

Heavy hors devours will be served

Register today!!





### **1st Annual HSTI Golf Classic First Place Team**

l-r: David Maynard, Dennis Norris, Mark Chadwell, Jesse Wilson

The inaugural HSTI Golf Classic was a resounding success, and we couldn't have navigated these waters without me hearties! Ye made golf a true pirate adventure!

Our Sponsors Arrrrgh the Real Treasure! Ye gave us wind in our sails and gold for our cause. The Missiles and More Museum and our scholarships recipients thank ye, mateys! Whether ye be Talos Missile or Pirate, yer name shined bright on the course. Yer loot keeps history alive for the next crew.

Our Prize Donors Gave Plunder Worth Playing For! The booty made the battles fierce! Thanks to all the local legends who donated. Yer gifts made every swing a thrill.



### **Our fearless Cap'n**

Iron Hook John Morris charted the course and set the sails for a success!



### **The Finest Crew on the High Seas**

No ship sails without its crew, and our volunteers worked tirelessly to keep us on course. Thank you for managing everything with pirate-level energy.

Ahoy Mateys-Join us next April on the links for a swashbuckling good time!



## Visit Colonial Topsail!

We had hundreds of folks step into history on February 21st to kick off America 250 NC, a celebration of America's Colonial heritage. There was something for everyone: Engaging speakers, hands-on children's activities, a Revolutionary War encampment by Moores Creek National Battlefield, and live demonstrations by DAR spinners and weavers, along with basket weavers from the Village of Yesteryear. We shared a delicious Southern lunch and hosted unique events like learning the the Virginia Reel with *Dancing at the Beach* and a children's tea party on the sound side deck. Our stirring opening ceremony featured Thomas Jefferson, the Topsail HS JROTC Coast Guard Color Guard, Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corps and patriotic songs performed by Untitled Theatre Productions. You could sign your "John Hancock" on the Declaration of Independence and meet "Flat Cornelius" (Harnett) and check out a Colonial-era display by Sons of the American Revolution.

**We cannot sufficiently express our gratitude to all who journeyed to Colonial Topsail; your presence did truly render the occasion most extraordinary.**





Colonial Topsail was a successful A250 kick-off







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## **Volunteer Opportunities: Ready to join the fun?**

*How would you like to be involved?*

- ~Luncheons ~Education ~Bingo! ~Autumn with Topsail
- ~Fundraising ~Engaging Speaker ~Jingle Bell Ball
- ~Museum Docent ~Living History Demonstrator

**Do you have computer/online/virtual platform skills?**

**Graphic Design?**

***WE NEED YOU!!***

**Sign Me Up!!**

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## *She Said Yes!!*

**Your wedding venue search starts and ends here!  
The Historic Assembly Building is Where Memories Are Made!**

The unique and historic Assembly Building with its beautiful island setting, is located on the Sound front of Topsail Beach. Our location offers magnificent sunset views!

From an industrial vibe, Boho-style, or traditional style wedding, everything is possible at the Assembly Building! With a capacity of up to 250 people, we provide THE perfect setting for any occasion! Large or small.

From the most intimate celebration with your nearest and dearest to a grand affair with all your family and friends. We provide THE ideal setting!

Family Reunions | Celebrations of Life | Birthdays | Anniversaries  
Corporate Retreats | Business Meetings | Workshops

***Endless Celebrations Happen Here!***

Click on the button below for more information about renting the Historic Assembly Building for your next event!

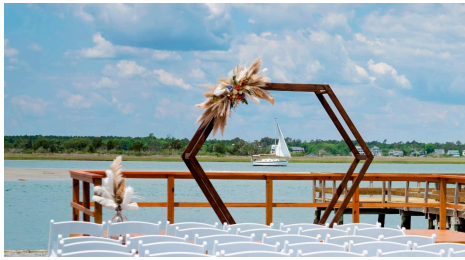


Photo credit Stella Spera Photography - Topsail Design and Studio L.L.C.

[Start Your Celebration Here!](#)

# Historical Society of Topsail Island Presents

# BINGO

## THURSDAYS JUNE 4 - AUGUST 20, 2026

Doors Open at 5:45 PM  
Early Bird Games at 6:30 PM - Main Games 7:00 PM

Historic Assembly Building 720 Channel Blvd, Topsail Beach, NC  
[TopsailHistoricalSociety.org](http://TopsailHistoricalSociety.org)

Patriot Night  
JULY 2

Pirate Night August 6



All proceeds support  
The Historical Society  
of Topsail Island's  
mission to preserve  
and promote the  
history of the Greater  
Topsail Island area.



Bumblebee  
Night  
June 18



PLEASE NO OUTSIDE  
FOOD OR BEVERAGES  
CONCESSIONS  
AVAILABLE ON SITE

# HSTI SUMMER AQUARIUM PROGRAMS PRESENTED BY THE NC AQUARIUM AT FORT FISHER OUTREACH, SPONSORED BY THE TOWN OF TOPSAIL BEACH



These engaging programs cater to families with school-aged children, but everyone is invited to join in!

**WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM**

**HISTORIC ASSEMBLY BUILDING  
720 CHANNEL BLVD. TOPSAIL BEACH, NC**



**JUNE 24  
SEA TURTLE 911**



**JULY 1  
FANTASTIC FISH**



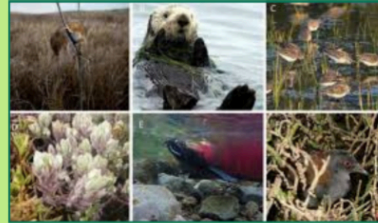
**JULY 8  
SCALY SURVIVORS**



**JULY 15 – HIDDEN  
BENEATH THE WAVES**



**JULY 22  
TURTLE TIME**



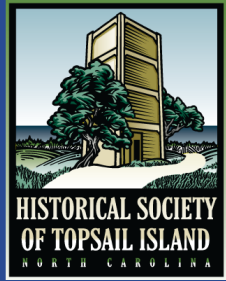
**JULY 29  
WILD WETLANDS**



## **Historic Top Secret Walking Tour of Topsail Beach**

This easy, free, one-mile walking tour will take you on a fun, historical adventure through the downtown area of the Town of Topsail Beach. This hike will accommodate strollers and folks with limited mobility.

[Learn More!](#)



## Mission Statement

The Historical Society of Topsail Island is dedicated to the collection, preservation and promotion of the history of the Greater Topsail Island Area.

## [Visit our website](#)

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